

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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R 172005Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5993

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2850

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, ES, CU

SUBJECT: GOES VIEWS ON CUBA

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1845

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW JULY 16, SUBSECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS CASTANEDA CORNEJO OUTLINED EL SALVADOR'S POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF SANCTIONS IMPOSED AGAINST CUBA. HE SAID EL SALVADOR BELIEVES THAT THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE NINTH MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS CONTINUE TO BE LEGALLY BINDING AND SHOULD BE REMOVED ONLY BY THE OAS ITSELF IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES. HE CRITICIZED THE UNILATERAL DECISIONS TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA THAT SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN. HE SAID THAT THESE ACTIONS CALLED INTO QUESTION THE AUTHORITY OF OAS RESOLUTIONS AND MADE DESIRABLE ("CONVENIENTE") THE ADOPTION OF MEASURES TO NORMALIZE THE
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SITUATION. EL SALVADOR, HE NOTED, HAD OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED

ITS READINESS TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL OR THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. CUBA SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO RE-ENTER THE OAS IF AND WHEN THE LATTER DECIDES THAT CUBA RESPECTS THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE CONTINENT.

2. IN A SUBSEQUENT LETTER TO THE PRESS PUBLISHED JULY 17, CASTANEDA EMPHASIZED THAT HIS PREVIOUS REMARKS DID NOT EXPRESS EL SALVADOR'S VIEWS ON THE SANCTIONS THEMSELVES.

3. COMMENT: CASTANEDA'S STATEMENTS CLOSELY PARALLEL THOSE PREVIOUSLY MADE BY FON MIN BORGONOVO (REFTEL). APART FROM CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA ON ITS SUGAR QUOTA, EL SALVADOR'S MAJOR INTEREST SEEMS TO BE TO AVOID BECOMING ISOLATED ON THE CUBAN ISSUE. (CASTANEDA REFERRED TO A "REGIONAL DEBATE" IN CENTRAL AMERICA ON THE QUESTIONS OF SANCTIONS AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, A CLEAR INDICATION THAT EL SALVADOR IS TRYING TO STAY IN STEP WITH HER NEIGHBORS). THUS, WHILE EL SALVADOR'S VIEWS -- ESPECIALLY ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS -- COINCIDE WITH OUR OWN AT THIS POINT, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT, IF THE BANDWAGON CONTINUES TO ROLL IN THAT DIRECTION, GHE GOES WILL VOTE TO REMOVE SANCTIONS OR EVEN FEEL ITSELF FORCED TO ACT UNILATERALLY TO NORMALIZE ITS RELATIONS WITH CUBA.
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